

# USACE PARTNERSHIP FORUM

March 7, 2022



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US Army Corps of Engineers®



Photo Sylvia Green



# Overview



- Introductions
- USACE natural resources management overview
- USACE partnership/volunteer program updates
- Corps Foundation updates
- Discussion/open forum

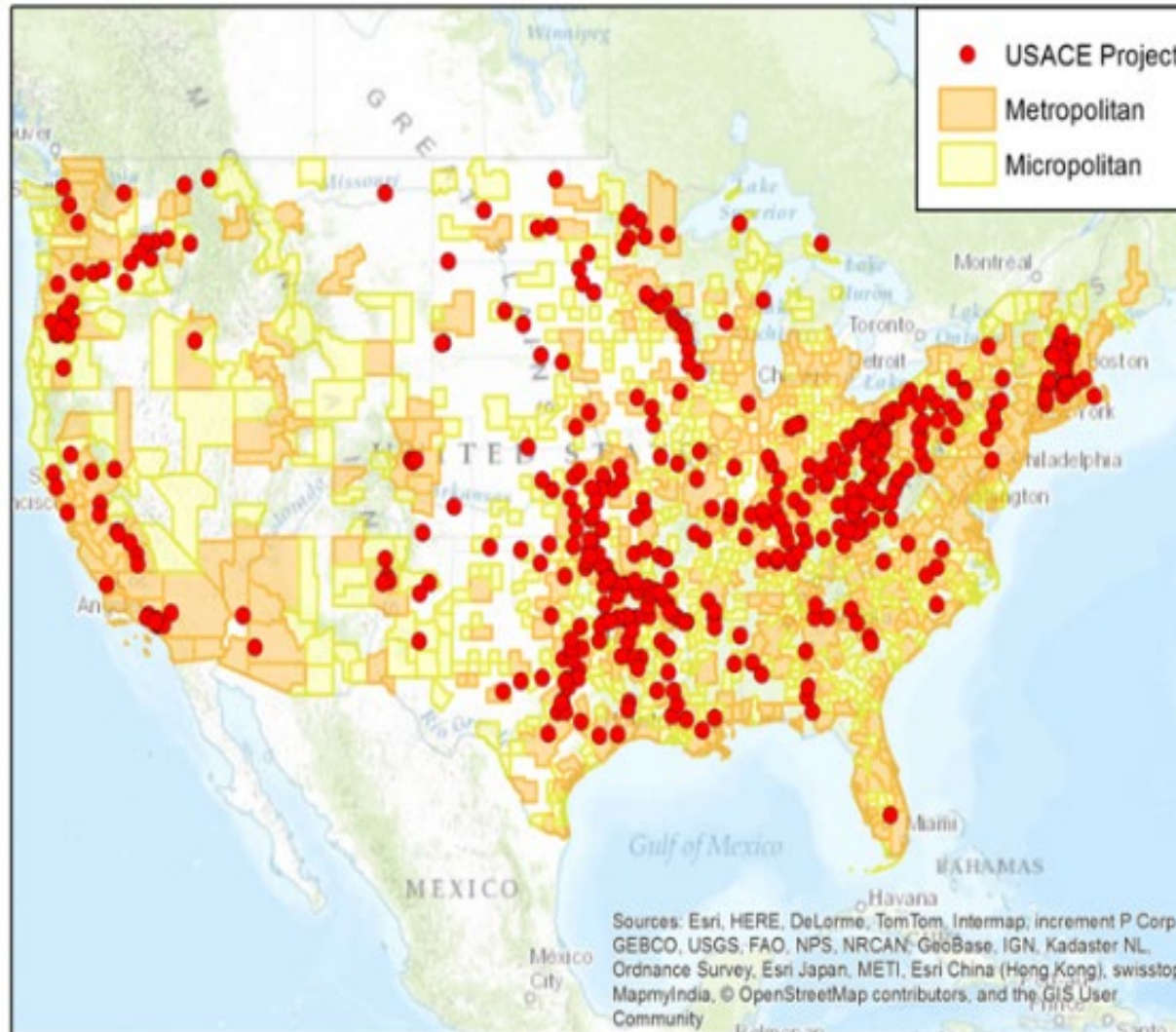




# There's a Corps Lake Near You!



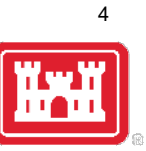
## USACE Projects and Metropolitan/Micropolitan Statistical Areas



- 4,838 recreation areas
- 3,713 boat ramps
- 91,583 campsites
- 109,057 marina slips
- 31,801 picnic sites
- 7,773 trail miles
- 885 fishing docks and public piers



# Visitation and Economic Benefits



- Support Local Economies:
- USACE is one of the leading federal providers of outdoor recreation to millions of Americans and supports 210,000 jobs on an annual basis through visitor spending on trips to USACE lakes.
  - Annual visitor spending contributes approximately \$12 billion in local economies.
  - More than 500 private concessionaires, with \$1 billion in assets, provide support services and facilities, such as marinas, bait shops and grocery stores, at USACE lakes.



# Environmental Stewardship Program



- 12 million acres of public lands and waters managed
- 3.6 million acres of water
- 3.4 million acres of forest/shrublands
- 708k acres of grassland
- 4.1 million acres flowage easement
- 55,390 miles of shoreline
- 388 federal listed species
- 14% of all U.S. freshwater fishing
- 55,000 cultural resource sites
- 5,882 sites listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register





# NRM Strategic Plan 2021 - 2031



- Published in July 2021. Replaced the 2011 Recreation Strategic Plan
- 10-year plan that focuses on national efforts and activities that support the field in the recreation and environmental stewardship programs

## 4 goal areas:

- **Workforce** - Build and cultivate a world-class team equipped to deliver high quality solutions.
- **Communication** - Effectively communicate the NRM mission to enhance understanding, support, and appreciation of the program by internal and external audiences.
- **Resourcing** - Apply consistently informed decision-making practices, adaptive approaches, and efficient use of available resources to deliver a quality NRM program.
- **Program Delivery** - Support and deliver innovations that sustain the NRM program to meet current demands and future challenges.



US Army Corps of Engineers

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

# STRATEGIC PLAN

2021 - 2031



# Recreation Task Force



- Directed by Congress in House Report 116-449, FY 21 Appropriations Bill to create a Recreation Task Force to develop a plan to maintain and enhance recreational opportunities at Corps projects.
- Year 1 report included a historical review of recreation use, funding, and overall condition of Corps recreation assets including deferred maintenance and repair backlogs. Sent to ASA(CW) in December 2021.
- Year 2 final report due in December 2022 will include proposals to address the needs identified by the Task Force and from outdoor recreation stakeholders and the public.
- Quarterly partner/stakeholder meetings will be conducted in 2022
  - Q1: March 4
  - Q2: June 22, 12:00 pm Eastern
  - Q3: August (TBD)
  - Q4: October (TBD)



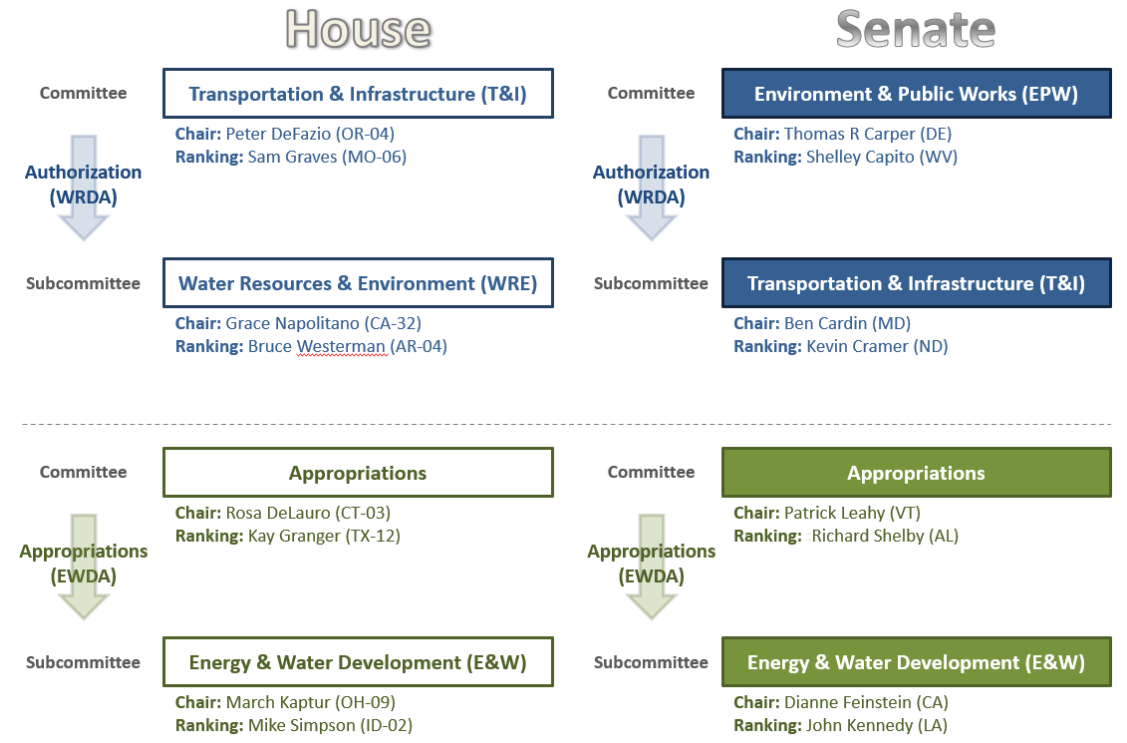


# Authority/Legislative Limitations and Challenges



USACE is represented by different committees and examiners than other FLMAs:

- House Authorization (WRDA)
  - Committee: Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I)
    - Subcommittee: Water Resources and Environment (WRE)
- House Appropriations (EWDA)
  - Committee: Appropriations
    - Subcommittee: Energy and Water Development (E&W)
- Senate Authorization (WRDA)
  - Committee: Environment and Public Works (EPW)
    - Subcommittee: Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I)
- Senate Appropriations (EWDA)
  - Committee: Appropriations
    - Subcommittee: Energy and Water Development (E&W)



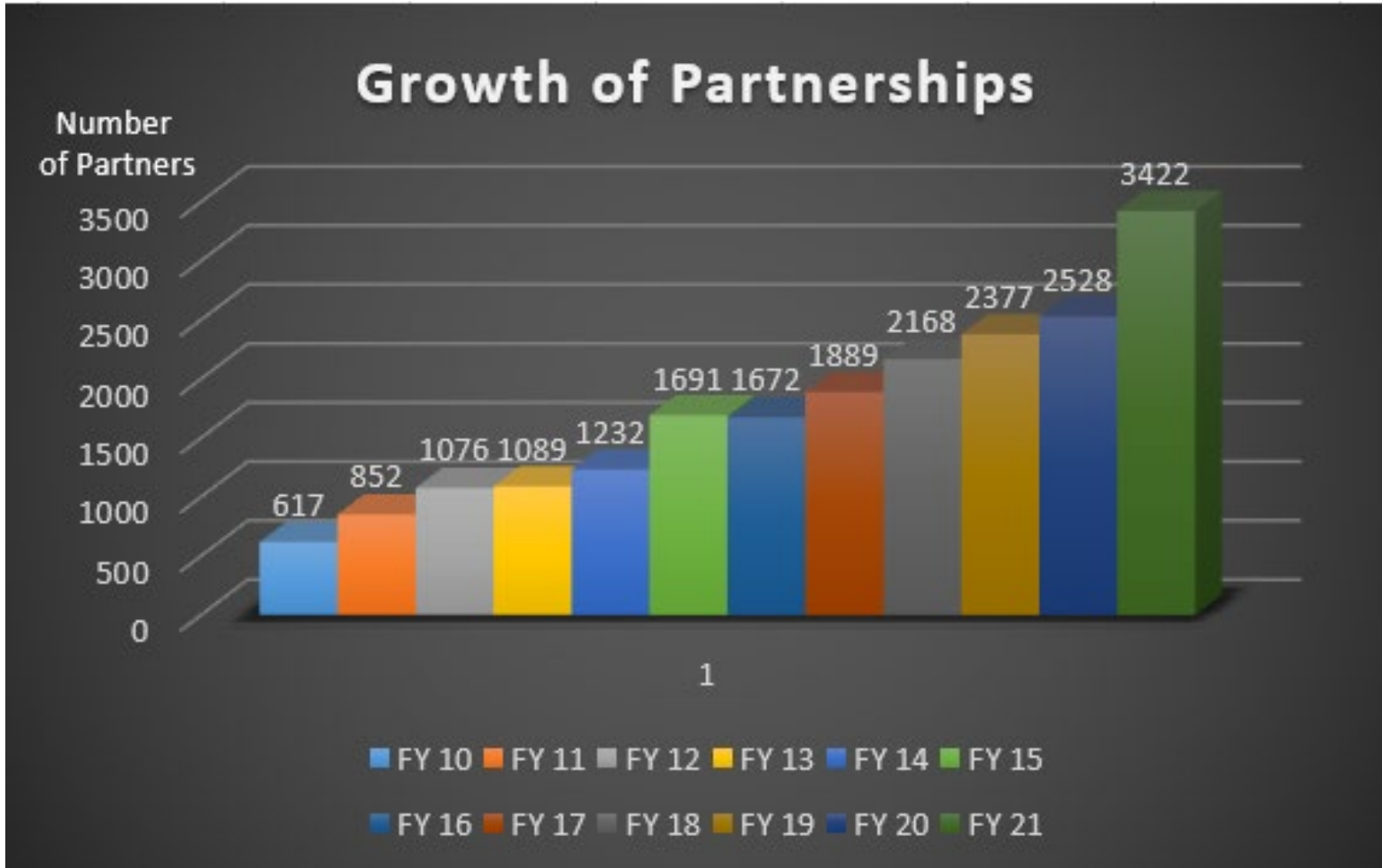
This means we are often not included in key recreation and natural resource legislation:

- Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA); Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA); Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (FLTP agency dedicated \$); Parks Jobs and Equity Act; Recreation Not Red Tape Act; Civilian Climate Corps for Jobs and Justice Act/Civilian Climate Corps Act; Parks, Jobs, and Equity Act; 21<sup>st</sup> Century Conservation Corps Act





# Partnership Program



**FY 21 total partners: 3,422**  
(35% increase from FY 20)

**Corps projects with partnerships: 263 of 403 (68%)**

**Total value of partnerships: \$111,803, 771**

**FY 21 volunteers: 18,274,**  
serving 1.56 million hours valued at \$44.5 million



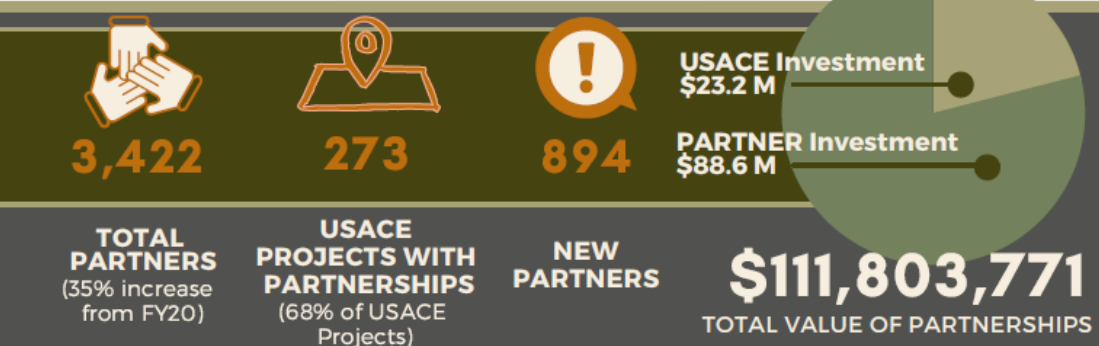
US Army Corps of Engineers®

# FY 21 PARTNERSHIP & VOLUNTEER PROGRAM SUMMARY

Annual partnership and volunteer program summary sheet

In 2021, our partners rose to the challenge again with USACE to face another year of adversity operating amid a global pandemic. Despite these difficult times, the USACE Natural Resource Management (NRM) partnership program grew even stronger through the collaborative efforts and unwavering support from thousands of dedicated organizations and individuals. USACE teamed up with the Recreate Responsibly and Together Outdoors Coalitions to strive to make the outdoors a welcoming place for all, while providing high quality and safe experiences. New national MOUs were developed in 2021 with organizations such as YMCA of the USA and the Ruffed Grouse/American Woodcock Society to advance water safety and conservation efforts.

The Corps Foundation, official non-profit for the USACE NRM program played a key role in working with other partners such as the National Marine Manufacturers Association to advocate and support the program. A Congressional Recreation Task Force was formed in 2021 to engage stakeholders and partners in developing a plan to maintain and enhance public recreational opportunities at USACE projects. Thanks to the outstanding contributions from our valued partners and volunteers, USACE was able to continue to meet the increasing demands of the public for clean, safe recreation opportunities while providing a healthy environment for visitors to enjoy.



<https://corpsslakes.erd.c.dren.mil/partners.cfm>

FY 21 PARTNERSHIPS & VOLUNTEER SUMMARY



**18,274**  
TOTAL VOLUNTEERS

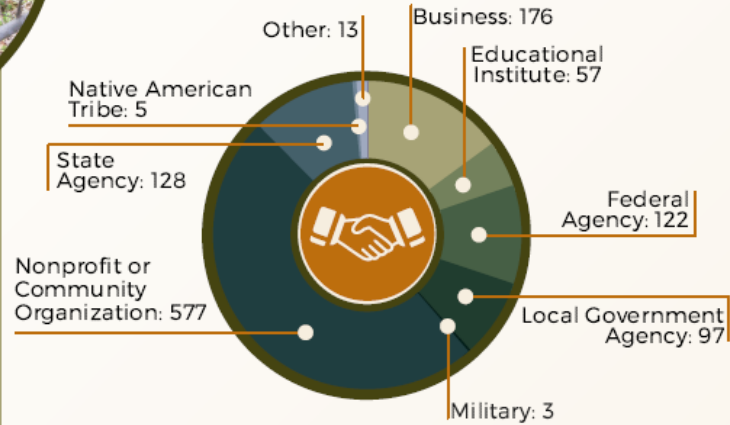
**1,559,839**  
TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS SERVED  
(Equivalent to 750 FTEs)

**\$44.5 M**  
TOTAL VALUE OF VOLUNTEER HOURS

**76%**  
PROJECTS USING VOLUNTEERS  
(305 of 403 USACE Projects)

## PARTNER ORGANIZATION TYPE

More than **3,000** state, federal, tribal and local government; public/private organizations; and local community partners engaged with USACE in 2021. A total of **125** USACE projects partnered with **29** organizations that have a national MOU in place, providing educational programs, health and safety, environmental and recreation improvements.



## USACE VOLUNTEERS

Over the past year, volunteers played a valuable role in helping care for the environment and providing high quality recreation opportunities. Over the past 5 years, the USACE volunteer workforce has averaged approximately 33,000 providing **1.5 million** hours of service annually.

**1,271**  
USACE ANNUAL PASSES ISSUED  
(for 100 hours of volunteer service)

**281**  
AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL PASSES ISSUED  
(for 250 hours of volunteer service)

**22**  
VOLUNTEER EXCELLENCE COINS



Produced by the USACE Partnership Advisory Committee



# Partnership/Volunteer Update



- 2021 Excellence in Partnerships winner: Berks Area Mountain Biking Association at Blue Marsh Lake in the Philadelphia District
- 2021 Volunteer of the Year winners: Brenda Grano and Wynona Brakeman of Allatoona Lake in the Mobile District
- Partnership/Volunteer policy: Working on updating Engineering Regulations related to volunteers, contributions, challenge partnership agreements, cooperating associations, cooperative management agreements
- Volunteer vaccination policy: Released guidance on 31 January. Similar to NPS, with volunteers considered “official visitors” subject to vaccination requirement or regular COVID testing
- R1S Donations program: Working with BAH to add an option for users to donate to USACE recreation areas, similar to BLM pilot program

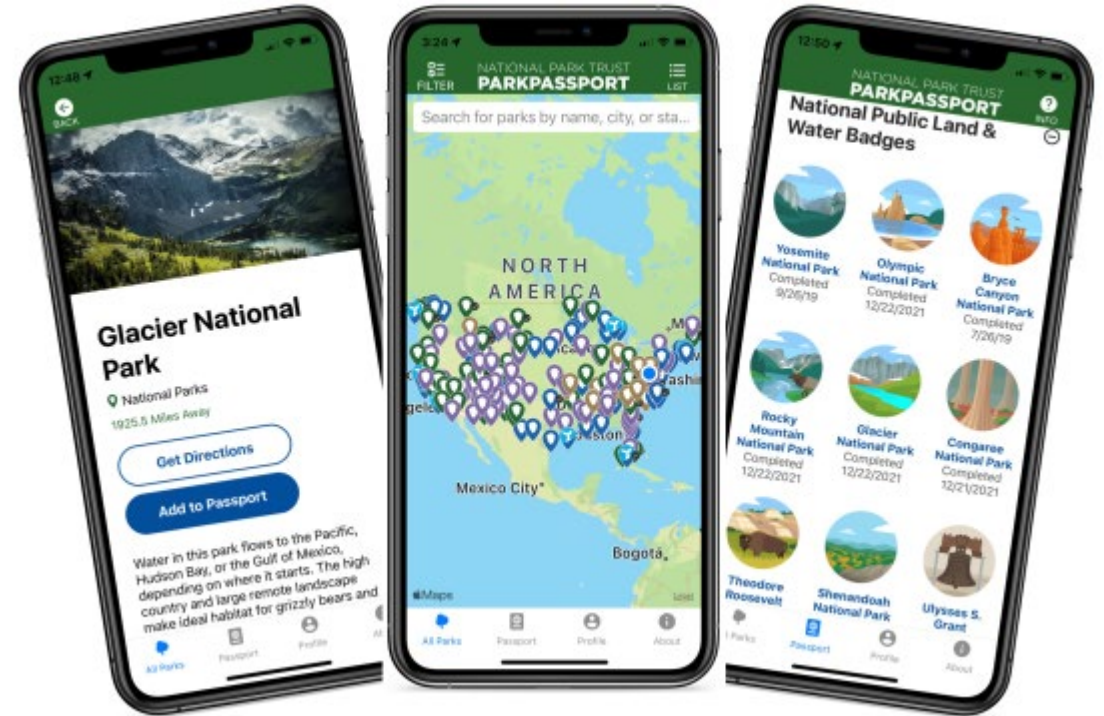




# Partnership/Volunteer Update



- Actively participating on a variety of interagency teams to meet the Administration’s goals:
  - America the Beautiful 30x30 Conservation Metrics and Parks and Nature committees
  - National Travel and Tourism Strategy- Ensuring Diverse and Accessible Tourism
  - Recreate Responsibly
  - Together Outdoors
  - COMPACT Act interagency task force on veteran’s outdoor recreation
- National Park Trust ParkPassport app: USACE joined NPS and NOAA on the app



US Army Corps  
of Engineers[www.CorpsLakes.us](http://www.CorpsLakes.us)

# Corps Lakes Gateway

*Your gateway to fun at Corps Lakes!*Select a State  Select a Corps of Engineers Lake  Select an Activity   Search

Over 400 lakes in 43 states!



## Trip Planning

- Plan Your Trip!
- Corps Lakes Photo Album
- Recreation.gov (877) 444-6777
- USACE Recreation Brochures
- Day Use and Discount Passes
  - New Senior Pass Information

## DoD Opportunities

- Gold Medal Award
- Great Travel Deals
- Lodging Travelers
- Military Homefront
- Military/Civilians on OCO Leave
- Every Kid Outdoors
- National Public Lands Day - Sept 28
- Get Outdoors
- Take Me Fishing
- Discover Boating
- Lets Move

## Become a Volunteer

- Volunteer.Gov

## Become a Partner

- Natural Resources Management Partnerships
- Corps Foundation

## Educational Resources

- National Water Safety Program
- Office of Boating Safety

## Social Media

- Join us on Facebook
- Instagram
- Pinterest
- YouTube

## Communities of Practice

- Natural Resources Management

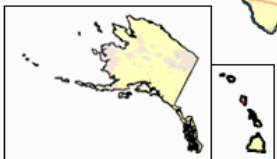
## U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

- Headquarters
- Value to the Nation
- Employment

## U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Recreation Services Status

**Mask Requirements at all Recreation Projects:** \* 17 February 2021 News Release \* Frequently Asked QuestionsSelect a State to view current status of USACE lake or river project  OR [View on Map](#)

As America confronts the challenges of Coronavirus disease (COVID-19), protecting the health and safety of the recreating public, volunteers and our government personnel is our highest priority. USACE is maintaining access to our projects by keeping day use facilities and lake access areas open such as boat launches, picnic areas, fishing piers, and viewing areas. These areas are, however, subject to evolving conditions related to COVID-19 and decisions may have to be made locally to close specific areas. For more information on the current status of USACE recreation area closures, we ask that you **Select a State above** to see current status of the USACE lake or river project before your visit. We appreciate your patience and understanding during this unprecedented time.



The Army Corps of Engineers is the steward of the lands and waters at Corps water resources projects. It's Natural Resources Management mission is to manage and conserve those natural resources, consistent with the ecosystem management principles, while providing quality public outdoor recreation experiences to serve the needs of present and future generations. This site is your gateway to recreation opportunities at Corps lands and waters. Welcome to the Corps Lakes Gateway and please be sure to see our [National Recreation Strategy!](#)

**Corps Lakes**  
*On The Go*

### Corps Lakes on Your Phone!

Get all Corps Lakes information while on the go

Learn more about  
Every Kid Outdoors!Share Your Experience at  
Corps Lakes via Hash Tags

### USACE Recreation Brochure - Enjoy Your National Lakes and Rivers

Recreational opportunities with  
the U.S. Army Corps of  
Engineers![View Brochure by State](#)**Corps Lakes**  
Photo Album

### Corps Lakes Photo album

Click on the photo album to view the Corps Album.

**Corps Lakes & Google Earth!**[Click here to view Corps Lakes](#)

# Resource: Corps Lakes Gateway



US Army Corps  
of Engineers ®

# Resource: NRM Gateway Partnerships

Partnerships  
Partners

## Partnerships

[Headquarters POC](#)

[Partnerships Pages Quick-finder Index](#)

In today's financial environment PARTNERING is an essential tool that allows the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to effectively manage recreation and environmental resources. In order to successfully meet our recreation and stewardship missions, and to foster shared values, vision, and a sense of ownership it is imperative that we work together with state governments, Native American tribes, private/public organizations, local communities, and other partners to maintain or advance programs from wildlife protection and habitat improvement to recreational facility enhancements.

Partnering helps to pool scarce resources, to promote coordinated, focused, and consistent mutual efforts to resolve common problems and missions, and to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort. The NRM Program has embraced this reality and is committed to fully exploring the potential development of new public-private partnerships to leverage limited appropriated funds and human resources.

This page will help you determine the [right tools for your partnerships](#), [find the right training to expand your knowledge](#), and [learn from the successful efforts of your peers](#). You will find answers to longstanding questions and discover how to effectively utilize important partners such as the [Corps of Engineers Natural Resources Education Foundation](#). The bottom line: **partnering is smart business.**

[Start here: Partnership Agreement Decision Tool](#)

### Partnership Types: [Which is right for you?](#)

- [Challenge Cost Sharing Cooperative Management Program](#)
- [Challenge Partnerships Program](#)
- [Contributions Program](#)
- [Cooperating Associations Program](#)
- [Volunteer Program](#)
- [Economy Act Agreements](#)
- [Handshake Partnerships Program](#)
- [Memoranda of Understanding/Agreement \(MOU/MOA\)](#)
- [Cooperative Agreements](#)

### How To:

- [Corps Photo Album for Partnerships](#)
- [News / Current Issues](#)
- [Partnership Advisory Committee](#)
- [Partnerships in NRM Assessment/OMBIL](#)
- [Policy & Procedures](#)
- [Training](#)
- [USACE NRM Partnership Agreements - Flow of Money/Contributions](#)
- [Division & District POCs](#) 
- [FAQs](#)
- [Good Enough to Share](#)
- [Grants/Alternative Funding Sources](#)
- [NRM Partnership Agreement Signature/Approval Levels](#)



# Open Forum Discussion



- What would you like to know about?
- How can we improve the NRM program? What are your organization's needs?
- What can USACE do to better foster partnerships with your organizations?
- Have you experienced any challenges partnering with USACE and if so, what was your challenge and how did you successfully address it?

# ADVOCACY – POLICY & GUIDANCE



## January 12, 2022, Testimony, U.S. Senate Hearing Committee on Environment and Public Works Testimony Supporting USACE Recreation Program

### Committee Member Senator Inhofe, OK

The last thing I would mention is on our lake's development. It seems like I never knew why it was this way, but **it always seemed they were always concerned with navigation and flood control but not recreation. We have so many great opportunities for recreation. This is something we have started looking at now for the first time.**

I was chairman of this committee during the 2007 WRDA legislation. We made some advancements at that time, and again in 2020. **But I would like to say we have all changed on our priorities on the lake system that we have. We recognize recreation is a very important opportunity for us in our State of Oklahoma. I would hope you would agree that is an area we need to concentrate on for everyone's benefit.**

### Mr. Connor, Assistant Secretary Army for Civil Works

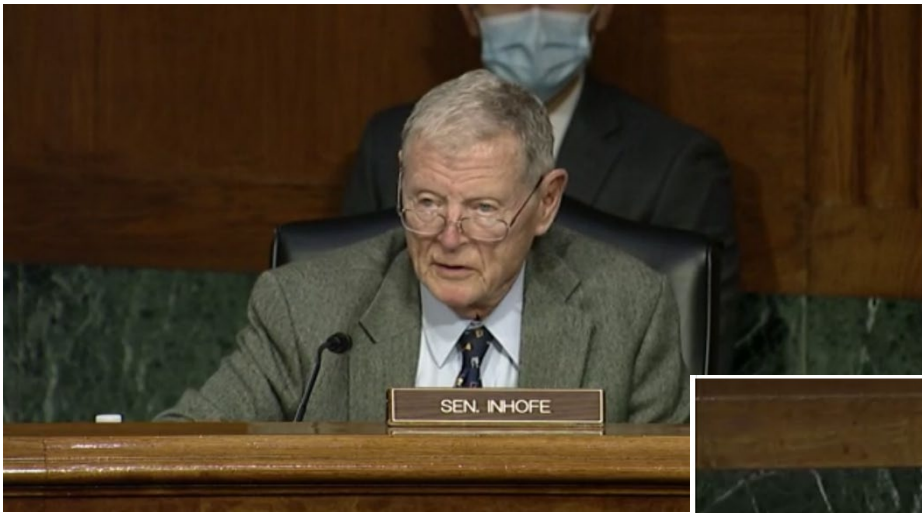
**Absolutely, Senator. I have a long history at the Interior Department. I was delighted to hear, when I came over in this position, to find out that we have more campgrounds within the Army Corps of Engineers system than the National Park Service.** So, I understand the importance of that. Particularly during the pandemic, **we have seen how people have gone to recreate at federal facilities outdoors. It is an incredibly important part of the portfolio because it serves those communities in which we exist.**



# ADVOCACY – POLICY & GUIDANCE



<https://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2022/1/water-resources-development-act-oversight-usace-implementation-of-water-infrastructure-projects-programs-and-priorities>



## Panel 1

The Honorable Michael Connor  
Assistant Secretary  
Army for Civil Works

# CORPS OF ENGINEERS NATURAL RESOURCES EDUCATION FOUNDATION



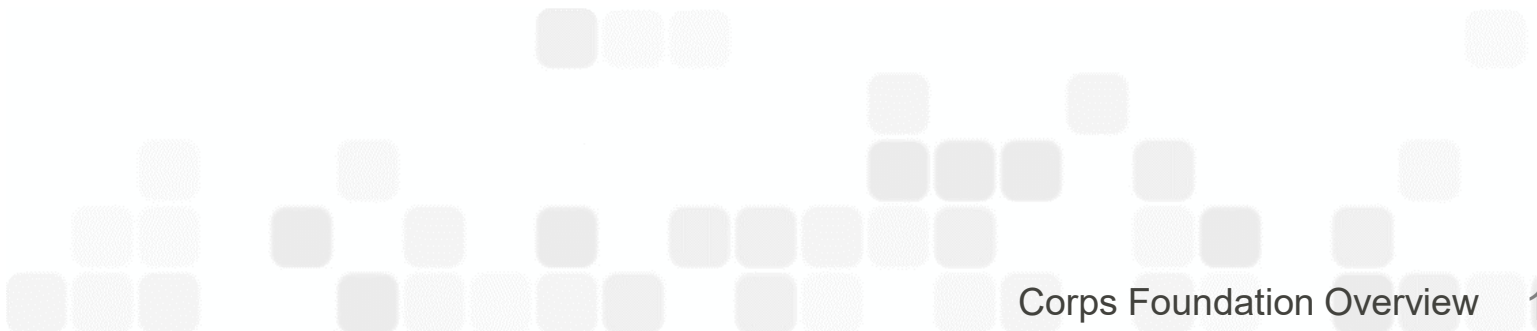
[www.CorpsFoundation.org](http://www.CorpsFoundation.org)

Support, Advocate for the US Army  
Corps of Engineers (USACE)  
Recreation and Natural Resources  
Management Program

Non-profit, 501(c)(3), fully managed and  
operated by a diverse all-volunteer  
Board of Directors, including USACE  
retirees with decades of experience  
working in the recreation and natural  
resources management program



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Recreation Sites



# PARTNERSHIPS –ACTIVITIES/PRODUCTS - ADVOCACY

- **Partnerships:**

- Engage the public, organizations, and local communities to support recreation and stewardship at our nation's lakes, lands, and waterways administered by USACE

- **Activities/Products:**

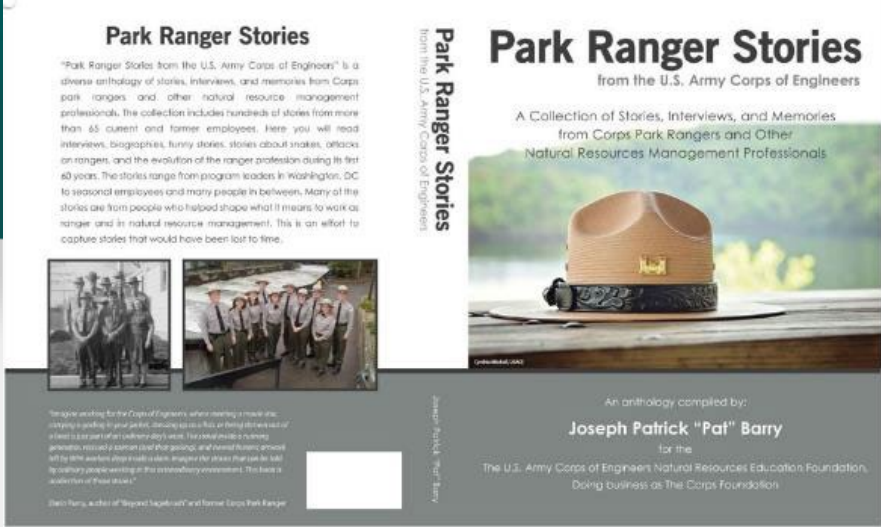
- Recognition and Award Programs
- Cooperating Association Toolkit
- Water Safety Campaign – Over \$1 million in grants
- Fundraising - Over \$1.1 million upgrades at Chittenden Locks salmon viewing room
- USACE Park Ranger Stories
- NRM Innovations Team Support

- **Advocacy (Outreach and Education):**

- Educate about recreation and stewardship programs and advance stakeholder support
- Provide donations, grants and fundraising support
- Assist partnerships and local friends' groups
- Serve as connection/hub for partner groups
- Advocate - encourage and support beneficial legislative authority

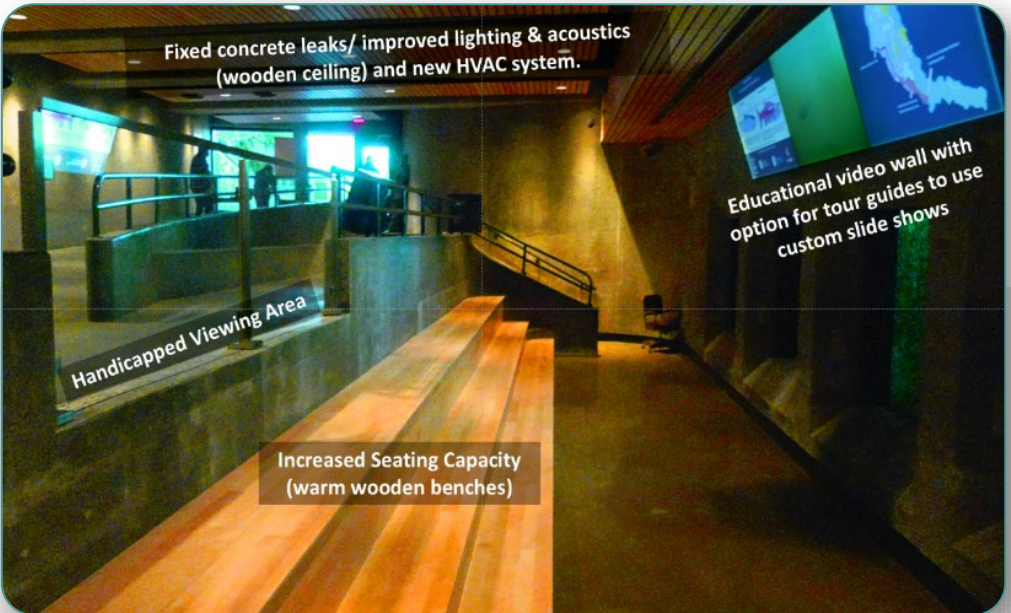
# PARTNERSHIPS

- **Lead efforts** to encourage and support beneficial legislative authorities for the USACE Natural Resources Management Program
- **Engage in strategic partnerships** with nonprofits, cooperating associations, the public and diverse like-minded groups, interests and organizations such as PLA, Outdoor Recreation Roundtable, and National Marine Manufacturers Association
  - **Raise awareness** about USACE NRM program at lakes, rivers and waterways
  - **Communicate our partnership role** to enhance the visitor experience and help stretch limited federal dollars
  - **Educate public and partners** about threats to access and use at USACE lakes, rivers and waterways
  - **Educate elected leaders** about a piece of legislation and it's positive or negative impact
  - **Influence and reflect a view of a specific legislation** through direct communication



"People working for the Corps of Engineers when starting a movie are always in good luck in their jobs, because as a rule, on being that way out of a field is far part of what ordinary day work. The usual inside a running program, instead of a certain level of activity, and of course, however, cannot all be the same, even more, which is why, it is important for those who can be said to ordinary people working in the extraordinary environment. The best is a collection of these stories."

John Perry, author of "Beyond Legality" and former Corps Park Ranger








# ACTIVITIES/PRODUCTS – WATER SAFETY CAMPAIGN



Water Safety Campaign (U.S. Coast Guard Grants)

**Five grants since 2014 (Over \$1 Million to date)**

- ✓ Video & Audio PSAs , Educational videos
- ✓ “Inflatable Life Jackets: Everything You Need to Know”
- ✓ Tailgate wraps, vinyl banners, pavement logo stencils
- ✓ Two mobile games  
- ✓ Campaign promotional giveaways
- ✓ Digital media marketing (Please Wear It)   

Campaign materials at [PleaseWearIt.com](https://www.PleaseWearIt.com)

# ACTIVITIES/PRODUCTS –NRM INNOVATIONS TEAM SUPPORT

- NRM Innovations Team Support
- ✓ Partnered with Tulsa District Innovations Team and SW Oklahoma State University on Jr Ranger App
- ✓ Hosting Innovations Store on Corps Foundation website





# ACTIVITIES/PRODUCTS - FUNDRAISING

## Nation's Largest Partnership Monetary Donation Seattle's Hiram M. Chittenden (Ballard) Locks:

Hiram M. Chittenden  
**Ballard  
Locks**

DEDICATED JULY 4, 1917

### PARTNERSHIP



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
Seattle District



- Top 5 tourist icon in serious need of repairs and improved educational exhibits
- Custom website and social media developed to engage public for support
- Over \$1 million raised for construction and improved exhibits
- On-going fundraising using Salmon Legacy Wall



# ADVOCACY – POLICY & GUIDANCE



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# ADVOCACY - 2021



## 2021 Corps Foundation Advocacy Activity

Our potential lobbying activities are conducted by volunteers and consisted of approximately 1,036 outreach contacts to legislators and stakeholder organizations, and meeting with or calling legislators.

### 1,036 Total Contacts Made thru Email, Facebook & Website:

- Mar Moving Forward Act, Federal Lands Transportation Program FLTP
- Mar Appropriations Bill
- Mar Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act FLREA
- Apr Water Resources Development Act WRDA
- Aug NMMA FLTP Letter of Support
- Sep Hunt Fish 30x30 Coalition
- Sep Reconciliation Bill Federal Lands Transportation Program FLTP
- Sep Appropriations Bill

### 278 Outreach Contacts:

- |                                      |    |  |
|--------------------------------------|----|--|
| • Corps Foundation Non & For Profits | 92 |  |
| • Cooperating Associations           | 66 |  |
| • NMMA Coalition Non & For Profits   | 43 | National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) |
| • Agency Contacts                    | 77 |  |

# ADVOCACY - 2022



## 2022 Priorities during 117<sup>th</sup> Congress

### **Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2022**

Request amendments to authorities granted under the WRDA to:

- **Acquire New Authorities:** Allow non-federal public entities, private sector and nonprofit organizations to cooperatively manage parks and handle collected revenues. Use appropriated funds on volunteer recognition.
- **Retain Recreation Use Fees:** Retain and use revenue generated onsite for improvements to recreation features and in natural resources management.
- **Establish a Public Lands Restoration Fund:** Address recreation facilities maintenance backlog. Direct funds retained for extraction of resources on public lands like funding provisions in the Great American Outdoors Act.
- **Federal Lands Transportation Program (FLTP):** Dedicate \$16 million for each of fiscal years 2022 – 2026 for road, bridge, tunnel and parking lot projects.
  - » Current Authorized Fiscal Year FLTP Funding: \$7.4M 2022 to \$9.0M 2026

# ADVOCACY - 2022



## 2022 Priorities during 117<sup>th</sup> Congress

### FY 2023 Appropriations Bill

Increase Recreation Business Line Funding:

- Request additional funding provided in the Operations and Maintenance Account, Other Authorized Project Purposes
  - ❖ Not less than \$40,000,000 shall be allocated for USACE Recreation Business Line to continue the operation, maintenance, and repair of existing recreation facilities and public access including unfunded infrastructure maintenance needed to sustain existing facilities at full capacity.

Recreation Business Line receives approximately \$5M annually in Operations and Maintenance Account, Other Authorized Project Purposes funds

# How to Help the Corps Foundation

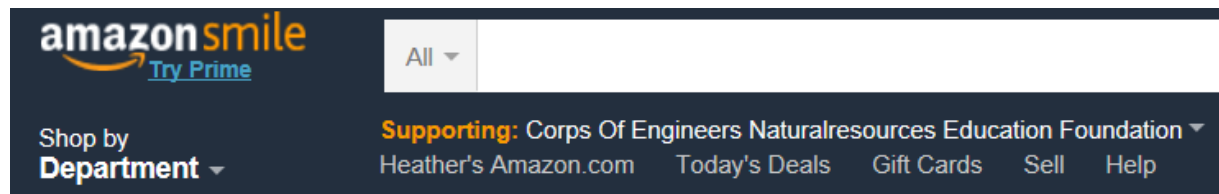
## JOIN US!

### Consider an Annual Membership

- Individual (\$25-250/year)
- Business (\$500/year)
- Lifetime (\$1,000 One Time)



Be sure to put the Corps Foundation in your Amazon Smile account



The Corps Foundation is 100% volunteer operated

[www.CorpsFoundation.org](http://www.CorpsFoundation.org)

Like us on Facebook: Corps Foundation

# QUESTIONS